



# KVK EAST KHASI HILLS NEWSLETTER

5TH MILE, UPPER SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA-793009



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### From Programme Coordinator Desk



It is a matter of great pleasure for me and my entire team that Krishi Vigyan Kendra East Khasi Hills district Meghalaya is publishing its fourth volume first issue Newsletter for all readers. This publication will highlight different activities and achievements of KVK from January to June 2013 on the mandated activities like OFTs, FLDs, Trainings and other Extension activities performed by KVK, East Khasi Hills. I, on behalf of the entire team take this opportunity to acknowledge the suggestion and constant encouragement received from Dr A.K. Gogoi ZPD, Zone III and Dr R.B. Dympep Ex Director of Agriculture Government of Meghalaya. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to all our farmers' friends and well wisher in translating our dream into reality.

**Smt. I. Kharkongor**  
Programme Coordinator KVK,  
East Khasi Hills, Upper Shillong



## ACTIVITIES OF THE KVK

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, East Khasi Hills in its endeavor to bring about technology from the various research stations nearer to the farmer, has been able to act as a bridge between the two. The centre has been fulfilling the mandates given to it through its various activities. Apart from the mandated activities, the centre through its scientists acts as a change agent for bringing about attitudinal changes in the outlook of the farmers towards society in general and to agriculture in particular.

### ON FARM TRIALS

On Farm Trials on eleven new technologies were conducted under different disciplines in various operational villages of the district. There were a number of trials under each of these technologies. The results of these ongoing trials are still awaited. The discipline wise OFTs are as follows:

#### **Agronomy:**

On farm trials were conducted for four new technologies on Rice, Maize and Groundnut. In maize and groundnut, introduction and varietal performance was carried out for HQPM-I and ICGS 76 varieties respectively in twenty one (21) trials covering an area of 2.25 ha. In Rice, two technologies covering Resource Conservation Technology (RCT) and an evaluation of SARS series (3 upland and 1 lowland cultivars) was carried out in four (4) trials covering an area of 1 ha.



*Nursery raising of paddy at Diengpasoh*



*RCT field*



*SARS series of upland rice at Diengpasoh*



*Standing crop of Upland paddy SARS series*





OFT on introduction and varietal performance HQPM-1



Standing crop of HQPM-1 at Mawreng



OFT on introduction and varietal performance of groundnut var. ICGS 76 at Mawklot



Standing crop of Groundnut var. ICGS 76 at Mawreng

## Horticulture:

The crops in which recent technologies were undertaken for OFT in Horticulture included King Chilli, Gerbera, Broccoli and Potato. Trials on scientific package of practices of Broccoli, Gerbera and King Chilli as per technology from research institutions were undertaken in 11 trials in an area of 1.53 ha. OFT on potato under introduction and popularization of HYV (var. *Kufri Girdhari*) were carried out in 2 trials covering an area of 1 ha.



Potato planted in lines at Sadew village



Standing crop of potato var. *Kufri Girdhari* at Sadew





OFT on Low volume High Value crops (King Chilli) at Mawklot



OFT on Low volume High Value crops (King Chilli)



OFT on Export potential ornamental crops (Gerbera)



Blooming Gerbera flowers in farmers field



OFT on Exotic vegetable production ( Broccoli)



Standing crop of Broccoli

### Plant Protection:

On farm trial on tomato using trichocards (*Trichogramma brasiliensis*) was initiated for controlling tomato fruit borer. Altogether 8 trials were conducted covering an area of 1 ha. The cards were requisitioned from the State Biological Control Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture situated at Upper Shillong.



OFT on Use of Bio control agent( *Trichogramma brasiliensis*) card on Tomato





*Standing crop of Tomato at Diengpasoh*

### **Agricultural Extension:**

On farm trials and studies on socio economic aspect of a farming community were initiated during the reporting period. Technology Backstopping on the production of low volume high value crops (King Chilli) and assessment and identification of problems in marketing agricultural products through PRA

techniques was carried out in five operational villages.



*Group Discussion on the various aspects of King Chilli cultivation*



*PRA on assessment and identification of problems in marketing agricultural products*

### **OFTs Completed:**

A total of eight technologies and social concepts under On Farm Trials were completed during January – June 2013. Table I shows the On Farm Trials which were completed during the reporting period along with the results and feedback from the concerned SMSs.

**Table I: Result and feedback of OFT completed during January-July, 2013**

Crop/ Social Concept	Assessment/ Refinement	Results	Feedback
Onion	Refinement done in sowing time to compare yield between seeds and bulb propagation of onion var. Pusa Red	Through bulb Yield: 15.4 t/ha Pl. height: 51.33cm No.of bulblets/bulb:2.66 No. of leaves/bulb:13  Through seeds Yield: 6.8 t/ha Pl. height: 47.8cm No. of leaves/bulb:9	B:C Ratio Bulb – 3.52 Seed – 2.01 Feedback In higher elevation (1500-1700 m), it was observed that the use of bulb for onion production was more economical.



Crop/ Social Concept	Assessment/ Refinement	Results	Feedback
Maize	Assessment on varietal performance of HQPM 1	HQPM 1 Yield – 6.2 t/ha Avg. Plant ht. - 159.4 cm No. of cobs/ plant - 2.5	B:C Ratio – 2.07 The variety is suitable both for kharif and rabi season. Availability of HQPM seeds as composite variety will enable seed production by farmers
Lentil	Assessment on Varietal performance and introduction of Lentil var. Moitree	Moitree var. Yield-0.93 t/ha Plant ht.-35.2 cm Test wt.-16.43 g Crop duration-85-90 DAS	B:C Ratio – 2.24 Farmers are willing to cultivate this variety due to its short duration which helps to avoid pre monsoon showers
Cauliflower	Assessment of seed production in low cost polyhouse	Yield: 0.005 t/ha	B:C Ratio – 6.7 From each plant, 40 gms of seeds were obtained. The production of seeds in protected condition is 4 times more than in open condition. Income of the farmers increased from Rs. 44,800 to Rs. 75,200 per unit area (100 m <sup>2</sup> )
Broccoli	Assessment and Introduction of Broccoli	Yield: 15.2 t/ha No. of curds/plant:1 No. of leaves/plant:13 Wt. of curd/plant:100g	B:C Ratio - 5.93 The introduced crop was sown using only FYM. Farmers received a good price at the market
Evaluation	Assessment and evaluation of SMS messages broadcasted by Intelligent Advisory System for Farmers	Messages required Package of practices of various vegetables- 38.46% Time of sowing, transplanting and planting based on meteorological data- 24.62% Livestock management- 23.07% Appropriate time for messages Anytime-58.46% Evening-26.15%. Advisories most required Time of sowing- 30.76% Disease management and pesticide management- 29.23%	Advisories may be pushed to the farmers at anytime and evening time is the most convenient. Advisories covering package of practices, reminder of planting season and on livestock data may be forwarded.

Crop/ Social Concept	Assessment/ Refinement	Results	Feedback
Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)	Assessment and identification of problems and probable solution	Key issues/ problems include unavailability of quality seeds and planting materials, lack of knowledge of nutrient management of crops and method of application, quality control assessment, lack of linkages with financial institutions.	PRA Technique has brought about a better understanding of the problems and their probable solution with the active participation of the farmers.
	Market potential analysis of Diengpasoh village	No market available in the particular village. Nearest market available is 30 kms where they sell their produce. Villagers depend on the main market for all their essential commodities like rice, agricultural implements, clothes etc.	Recommendations of Farmers: Formation of a agricultural marketing society among progressive farmers within the village to help with the transport of agricultural produce. Establishment of more fair price shops in the vicinity of the village for the availability of essential commodities within the village itself.

### FRONT LINE DEMONSTRATION:

Front line demonstrations were conducted under various disciplines during a particular period. During the month of April, fifteen numbers of frontline demonstration were started on-raising of Kitchen garden, Maize and legume crop intercropping and Product performance of GF2 in controlling Soft rot of ginger at Laitjem, Mawsiatkhnam, Mawklot, Diengpasoh, Mawkynrew,

Maweitnai, Sadew and Laitkynsew villages benefitting 71 farmers. During June and July, seven demonstrations on SRI, Effect of broadcasting method of Lime application on yield of rice and Composite fish culture were initiated involving 32 farmers. Results of front line demonstrations which were initiated in the earlier reporting period and completed during the current period are shown below in table II.



**Table II: Results and Feedbacks of Completed FLD during January-June 2013**

Technology Demonstrated	Results	Feedback
Cultivation of rabi maize with the recommended package of practices	Avg Yield: 3.42 t/ha Avg Plant Height: 150.2 cm Avg Net Return: Rs. 10,723/ha B:C Ratio: 1.3	The technology can further be encouraged and tried in the warmer parts of the district. However, farmers in the colder areas with no irrigation facilities are finding difficulties to follow the technology as water scarcity was more in the season.
Cultivation of pea (pulse) with recommended package of practices	Avg Yield: 12.0 t/ha Avg Net Return: Rs.6,220/ha B:C Ratio: 1.19	The technology was accepted by the farmers
Popularization of Azad Pea	Avg Yield: 7.46 t/ha Avg Net Return: Rs. 1,79,393/ha B:C Ratio: 4.23	Pods are firm. Filled with 7-9 seeds, plant height was around 60-70 cms. Pod/plant: 25-39. Farmers are satisfied with the outcome of the technology demonstrated due to its high return.



*Lime application through broadcasting method at Myllem*



*FLD on maize inter cropping with legumes*



*FLD on SRI at Baniun*



*Dehauling of potato stem at Sadew*





FLD on use of *T. brassicae* for controlling cabbage butterfly



*Demonstration on Kitchen Garden*



*Harvesting of ginger crop at Diengpasoh*



*Demonstration on Kitchen Garden for Urban areas*

### **Training Programmes Conducted:**

The Subject Matter Specialists of the centre conducted a total of fifty one (51) on and off campus training programmes for the benefit of 1352 farmers, farm women and rural youths. The topics and methods of the training programmes were selected carefully taking into consideration the training needs of the beneficiaries. An overview of the trainings conducted by the Subject Matter Specialist of the centre is given in Table III.

**Table III: Overview of Training Conducted by KVK, East Khasi Hills during January-June 2013**

Discipline	On Campus (Nos)	Off Campus (Nos)	Total Beneficiaries
Agronomy	8	3	264
Horticulture	11	15	712
Plant Protection	1	3	73
Extension	1	2	58
Fishery	1	1	65
Animal Husbandry	5	0	180
Total	27	24	1352





*Off Campus Trainings*



*On Campus Trainings*

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

### Field Days

In the reporting period, nine numbers of field days were conducted in the farmers field in order to display the advantages of the new technology demonstrated over the farmers practice in their field. During these field days, 92 farmers were benefitted in the villages where the OFTs and FLDs were conducted.



*Field Day on Lentil var. Moitree*



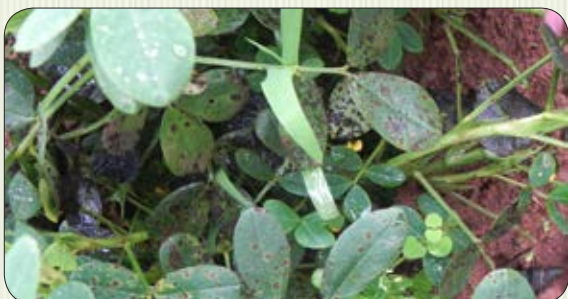
*Field Day on Potato (var. Kufri Girdhari)*

### Diagnostic / Scientist visit

A total of one hundred and fourteen (114) diagnostic and scientist visits were conducted by the Programme Co-ordinator along with the SMSs of the centre. Out of these, thirty nine (39) numbers of diagnostic visits were done in which the scientist from the centre were able to provide on the field, solutions and advices to the problems faced by one hundred and seventy two (172) farmers.



During the visits to the field, the team of scientists from the centre were able to get a first hand experience on the problems faced by the rural community.



*Tikka disease of groundnut*



*Maize infested with cob borer*



*Wilt disease symptom in tomato*



*Alternaria leaf spot in chilli*

### **Farmers visit:**

Farmers from the operational villages regularly visit the centre to attend on campus training and also to seek assistance regarding problems faced in the field and information on schemes provided by various line departments. In thirty five (35) such visits, a total number of one thousand one hundred and seventy five (1175) farmers were benefitted.



*Farmers visiting the seed production unit at Laitjem*

### **Method Demonstration**

A total of twenty four (24) method demonstrations were conducted by the Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) of the centre. The number of farmers and farm women benefitted from the demonstration were four hundred and forty three (443) who expressed great satisfaction over the manner in which these demonstrations were conducted as they were informative and practical in nature.



*Line sowing of Potato on raised bed at Pongtung*





Demonstration on use of *Trichoderma viridae* for soil sterilization

### Exposure visit

Two numbers of exposure visits to the poultry production farm of the State Veterinary Department at Kyrdemkulai in Ri-Bhoi district was arranged for the trainees from different operational villages. The objective of the programme was to expose the farmers to the recent advances in broiler production and also to inculcate in them an entrepreneurial outlook towards agriculture and allied sectors. The programmes were attended not only by the farmers but a number of rural youths as well.



Exposure visit to Kyrdemkulai farm



Farmers interacting with an expert during the Exposure visit

### Publications:

A leaflet entitled “Ka Rep Kyrpong Iing” or “Kitchen Gardening” was produced by the Centre and released during the Annual Zonal Workshop by Dr. A.K. Gogoi, Zonal Project Director, ICAR-NEH on the 27th May 2013.

A bi annual Newsletter of the KVK was published during the session July to December 2013.



### Newspaper coverage/ Publicity:

A total number of 3 coverages were compiled in two Newspapers and an International Newsletter (WWF) on the activities of KVK East Khasi Hills during the session.





## Radio talk/ TV Programmes

The centre in collaboration with Doordarshan Kendra (DDK) Shillong produced a series on "Package of Practices of Potato" comprising of four episodes which was aired during February - June 2013. A episode on "Nursery Raising of Vegetables" was also aired during the month of July 2013. The centre also helped in producing a Documentary on Intelligent Advisory System for Farmers (IASF) to showcase the role played by the KVK in implementing the system.



## Lecture delivered

The Programme Coordinator and SMS were invited as resource persons to deliver lectures on certain aspects of agriculture and allied sciences. Seventeen (17) such programmes were attended for which two hundred and ninety five (295) farmers were benefitted.



## Film Show

Film shows were shown to trainees during various on and off campus training programmes. The film show ranged from HQPM, SRI, Rice cum Fish Culture, Vermicompost production, etc. Twenty (20) such film shows were conducted for six hundred and seventeen (617) farmers.





## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) East Khasi Hills under the Department of Agriculture, Meghalaya celebrated the World Environment Day 2013 on 5th June under the theme “Think, Eat, Save”. On this occasion, an Inter School Drawing/Painting Competition was organized on the topic “Save environment - Safe Food” which was attended by a number of schools from Upper Shillong area. The participating students from the various schools displayed great level of creativity and imagination in keeping with the topic of the competition. At the end of the competition, the first prize was bagged by Winsterborn Khongpdah of Pomlum Higher Secondary School and the second prize by Milkastar Nongkhlaw of Mystical Rose Secondary School and the third prize by Donjohny Kharkongor of Pomlum Higher Secondary School. After the programme all the students had

opportunity to plant a tree sapling with their names tagged on each sapling.

The prize distribution ceremony was attended by Mr. K.D. Kharkongor, District Training Officer, Farmers Training Centre, Upper Shillong as the Chief Guest and Smti. B. Kharshandi, Scientific Officer, State Biological Control Laboratory, Upper Shillong as the Guest of Honour apart from other officials and invitees. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest reiterated the role which can be played by the youngsters in bringing about a clean and safe environment. He also stressed on the need for a holistic approach to reduce food wastage. The morning session also included an Open session in which the teachers accompanying the students were given an opportunity to share their views and observation on the topic.



*Chief Guest addressing in the programme*



*Students participating in the drawing competition*



*Winners of the Drawing Competition*



*Students planting tree saplings after the programme*



## IMPORTANT EVENTS

Programme Co-ordinator and SMS (Agril. Extension) attended a Training on “Participatory Technology Evaluation and Transfer for Food Security and Income Enhancement” organized by ICAR NEH at Umiam from 12th-19th March 2013.

A 5 day training on “Skill Upgradation Training for women” was organized in collaboration with Hima Myllem Youth Welfare Organization which was sponsored by the Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) , Shillong from 18th-22nd March 2013.

SMS (Agril. Extension) attended a Brainstorming Session on “Improving Research in Agricultural Extension: Issues and way Forward” at College of Post Graduate Studies, CAU, Umiam on the 26th April 2013.

Programme Co-ordinator and SMS (Agril. Extension) participated in a workshop on “Agriculture and Rural Development Knowledge and Service Partners” at College of Post Graduate Studies, CAU, Umiam on the 15th May 2013.

SMS (Agronomy), SMS (Horticulture)

and SMS (Agril. Extension) attended the Workshop on Application and Use of Intelligent Advisory System for Farmers (IASF) on the 10th June 2013 at the centre. SMS (Fisheries) attended a Training on WTO and its implications on Indian Agriculture from the 10th -14th June 2013 organised by MANAGE, Hyderabad in collaboration with ICAR-NEH at Umiam.

Dr. K. Anand Reddy, Director (HRD) of National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad accompanied by Dr. G.D. Dkhar, State Coordinator, State Extension Reforms visited the centre on 11th June 2013.

Dr. A.K. Gogoi, Zonal Project Director (ZPD), Zone III and Dr. S. Paul, Scientist, visited the centre to monitor the work undertaken by the centre at its farm.

Programme Co-ordinator and SMS (Horticulture) conducted training in various villages under Mawkynrew C& RD Block on “Kitchen Gardening” in collaboration with World Vision, Shillong



*Dr Anand Reddy(HRD) NIAEM visit to KVK*



*ZPD visit to KVK inspecting the Polyhouse*



*Parliamentary Secy. In the KVK land*



*Scientists interaction with Teachers during the World Food Day celebration*



EDITOR  
Programme Co-ordinator  
KVK, East Khasi Hills, Upper Shillong



KVK East Khasi Hills land

**DATABASE PREPARATION:**

Smti. Aibanrihun Lyngdoh (SMS Horticulture)  
Shri. Badapmain Makdoh (SMS Agronomy)  
Smti. Samborlang Malngiang (SMS Fisheries)  
Shri. Shanmebansan Marbaniang (SMS Extension)

**COMPILATION AND LAY OUT DESIGNING:**

Shri. Koles Andreas Muktieh  
(Programme Assistant, Computer)  
Shri. Baiaishah Syiemlieh (Farm Manager)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT

**PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR**  
Krishi Vigyan Kendra, East Khasi Hills  
5th Mile Upper Shillong-793009  
Meghalaya.

Email: kvkehup@gmail.com  
Website: kvkeastkhasihills.nic.in

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